絢爛たる グランドセーヌ

La Magnifique Grande Seine

Scene.003 One Step Ahead

WAIT! RISA-CHAN!
DON'T GO AWAY!
DON'T LEAVE ME!
SOONER OR LATER I WILL HAVE TO WAKE UP AND GO BACK TO REALITY.
THIS IS A DREAM!

BUT NOW...
IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT...

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ピ bcep
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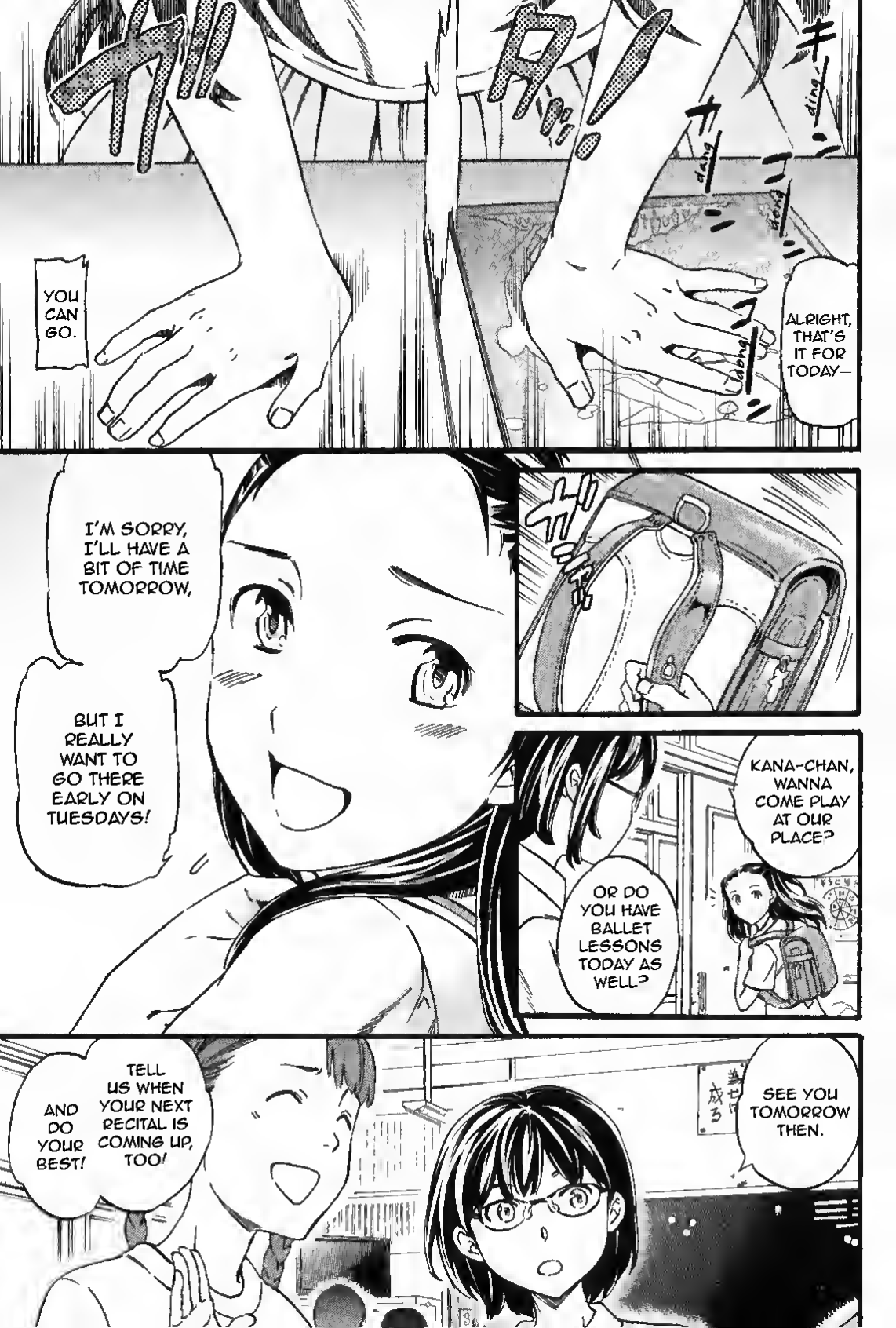
チュン チュン
チュン
chirp
chirp
exhale
むく…
THIS DREAM AGAIN...
GULP
GULP

MY FIRST TIME ON STAGE.
AND RISA-CHAN'S LAST TIME...
KANADE!
YOU SHOULD WAKE UP NOW IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE!
I'M AWAKE!
I JUST NEED FIVE MINUTES!
DON'T YOUR FIVE MINUTES ALWAYS END UP TAKING TEN?
DON'T WORRY! I'LL JUST RUN IF I REALLY NEED TO!

YES I KNOW, MOM,
IT WOULDN'T BE A GOOD WAY TO START THE NEW YEAR—
I KNOW.


ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY—
YOU CAN GO.
I'M SORRY, I'LL HAVE A BIT OF TIME TOMORROW,
BUT I REALLY WANT TO GO THERE EARLY ON TUESDAYS!
KANA-CHAN, WANNA COME PLAY AT OUR PLACE?
OR DO YOU HAVE BALLET LESSONS TODAY AS WELL?
SEE YOU TOMORROW THEN.
TELL US WHEN YOUR NEXT RECITAL IS COMING UP, TOO!
AND DO YOUR BEST!

SERIOUSLY, DOES SHE EVER GET TIRED?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE MORE ZEALOUS?
DON'T RUN INSIDE!
I'M SORRY!
AFTER ALL, TUESDAY IS TAKIMOTO-SENSEI'S CLASS!
THANK YOU!
I WILL!
WE MIGHT GET PERMISSION TO WEAR POINTE SHOES!
TODAY
YAY~
I'M THE FIRST!

HELLO, KANADE.
GOOD AFTERNOON!
HEY! GOOD AFTERNOON!
GOOD AFTERNOON, TAKIMOTO-SENSEI!
I've got to change quickly!
DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE SHE'S SHOWING EVEN MORE ENTHUSIASM THAN USUAL?
COMING TO THE STUDIO A WHOLE HOUR EARLIER THAN HER CLASS.
SHOUKO-CHAN!
NO WAY!

I'VE FAILED TO ARRIVE FIRST!

WELL, MY SCHOOL IS CLOSER AFTER ALL

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE THE RECITAL IS COMING UP.

THAT OR THEY WANT TO PROVE THEY CAN WEAR POINTE SHOES, THOSE TWO WON'T STOP ASKING...

WOULDN'T IT BE ABOUT TIME FOR THEM ANYWAY, TAKIMOTO-SENSEI?

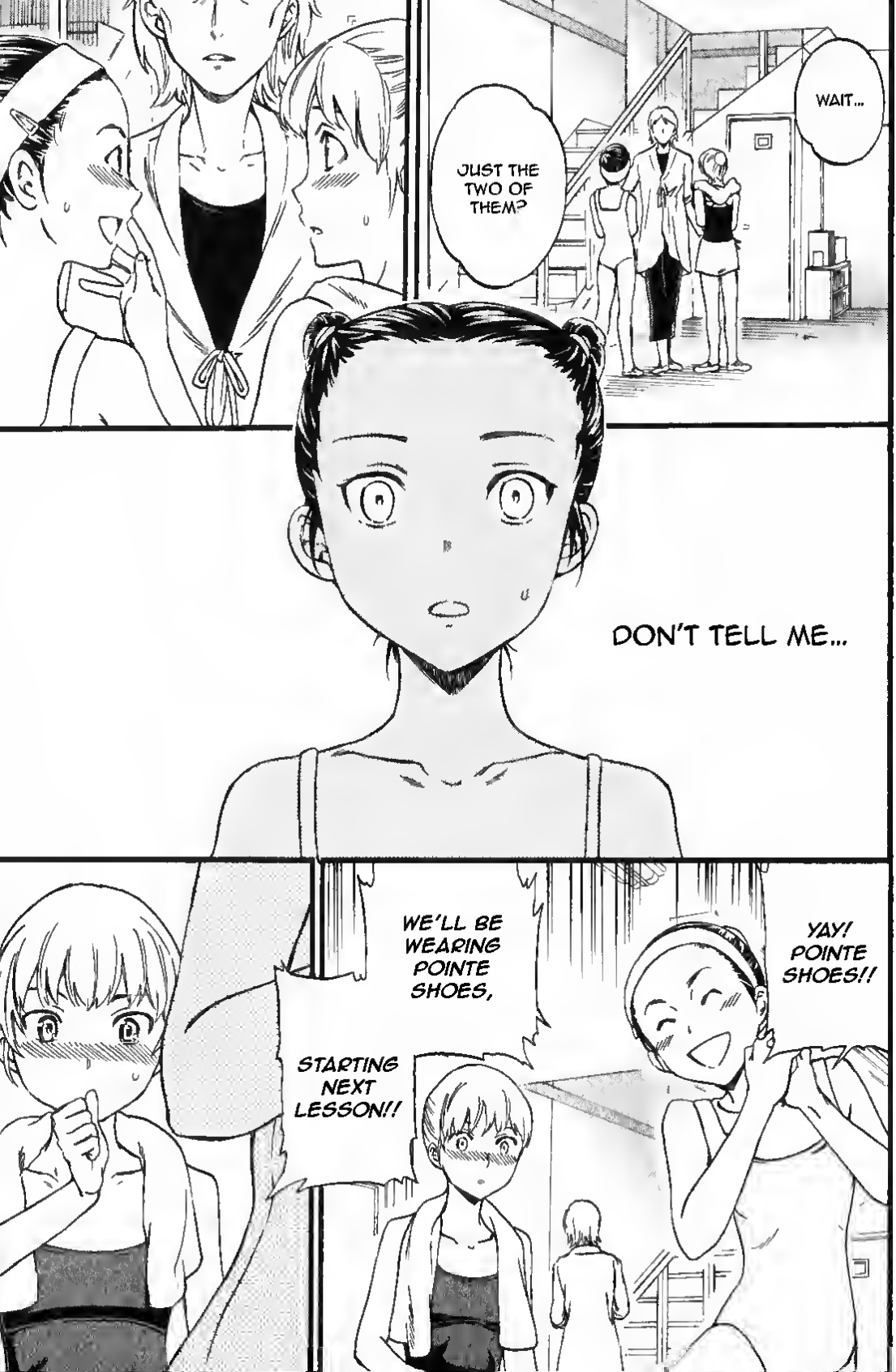
ONE, AND TWO, AND THREE, AND FOUR!

GLISSADE! ASSEMBLÉ!

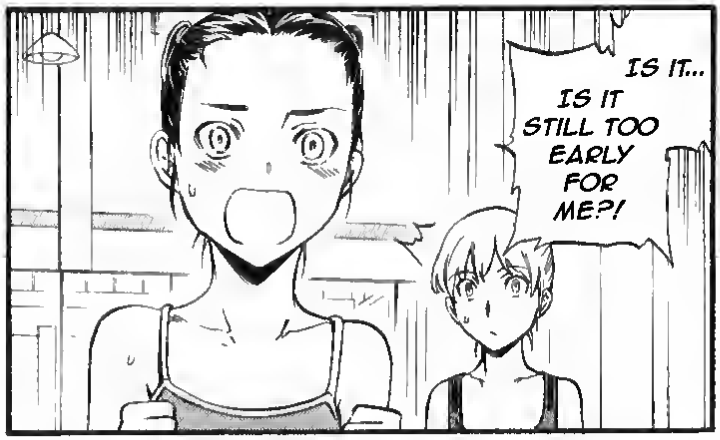
GLISSADE! ASSEMBLÉ!

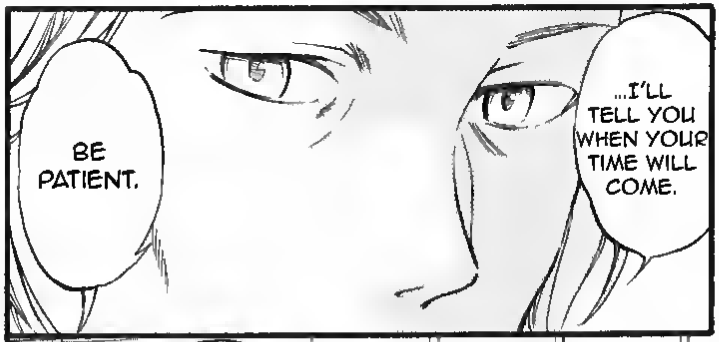
SHOUKO! YOUR SHOUL-DERS!!
PUT MORE EFFORT INTO IT!!
KANADE, YOUR HEELS FELL!
PULL YOURSELF UP FIRMLY!
YOUR LEG IS TOO LOW!

THANK YOU FOR THE LESSON!
SEE YOU NEXT TIME.
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
CAN YOU COME HERE FOR A MINUTE?
SHOUKO!
JULIA!
OKAY!
I'M COMING!


WAIT...
JUST THE TWO OF THEM?
DON'T TELL ME...
WE'LL BE WEARING POINTE SHOES,
STARTING NEXT LESSON!!
YAY! POINTE SHOES!!

TAKI-MOTO-SENSEI!


IS IT...
IS IT STILL TOO EARLY FOR ME?!

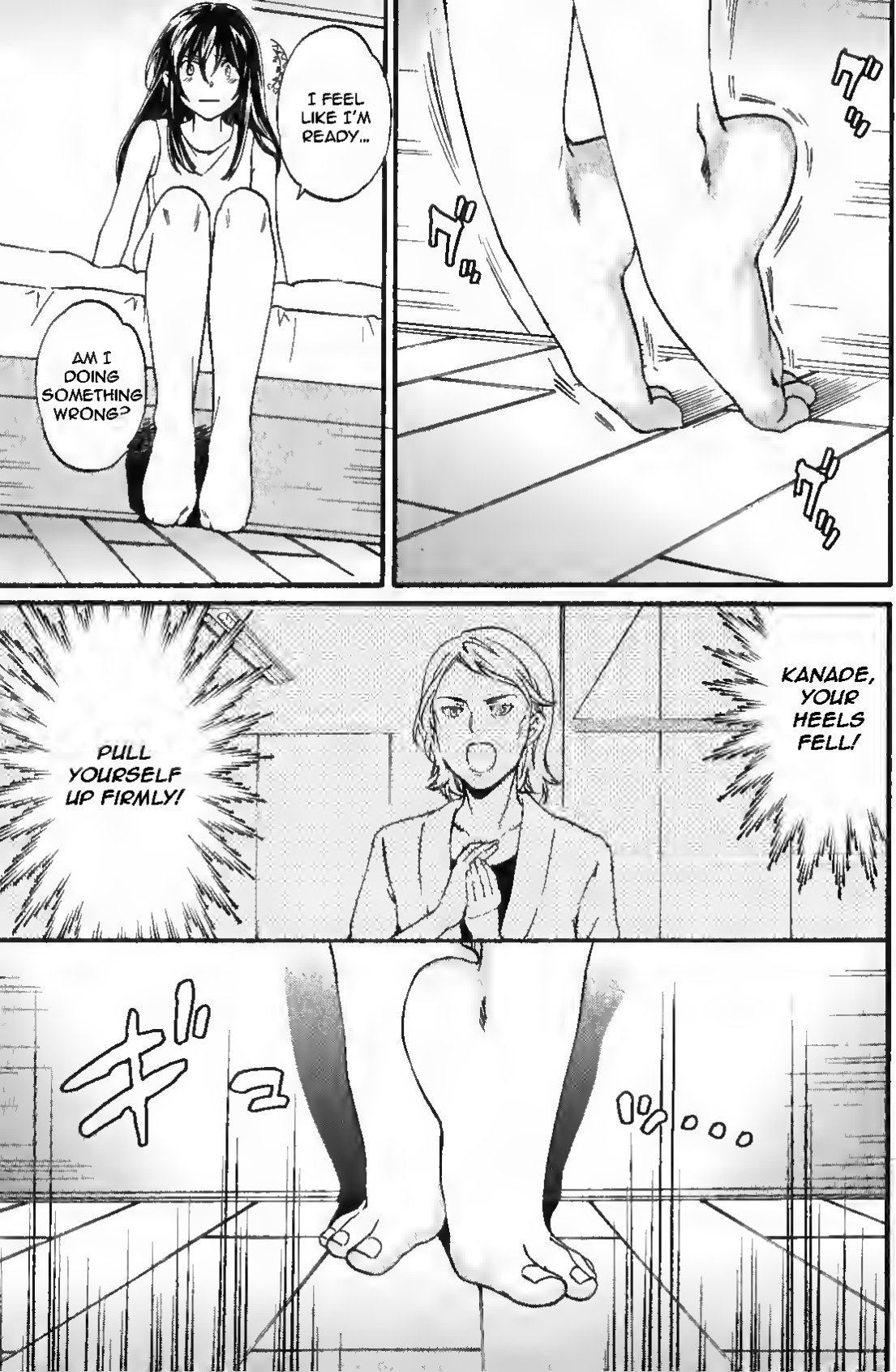

BE PATIENT.
...I'LL TELL YOU WHEN YOUR TIME WILL COME.

WHAT ABOUT ME...?

FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SHARE THE JOY WITH YOU...
I'M SORRY, SHOUKO-CHAN, JULIA-CHAN,
I WASN'T EXPECTING IT ANYMORE AT THIS POINT.
...I'M ACTUALLY SURPRISED.

FRUS-TRATED?
YOU SHOULD LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR.
YEAH... HOW COULD YOU TELL?
HUH,
I THINK ANYONE COULD...
I MEAN...
...GOOD EVENING, DADDY.

ポテ
walking by
ポテ
FINE...
ポテ
HEY, KANADE! WELCOME BACK!
HOW WAS YOUR LESSON TODAY?
WE SHOULD LEAVE HER ALONE TONIGHT
SHE'S FEELING A BIT DOWN.
...!
SLIDE
HER FRIENDS RECEIVED PERMISSION TO WEAR POINTE SHOES
AND SHE FEELS LEFT OUT BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T.


I FEEL LIKE I'M READY...
AM I DOING SOMETHING WRONG?
KANADE, YOUR HEELS FELL!
PULL YOURSELF UP FIRMLY!

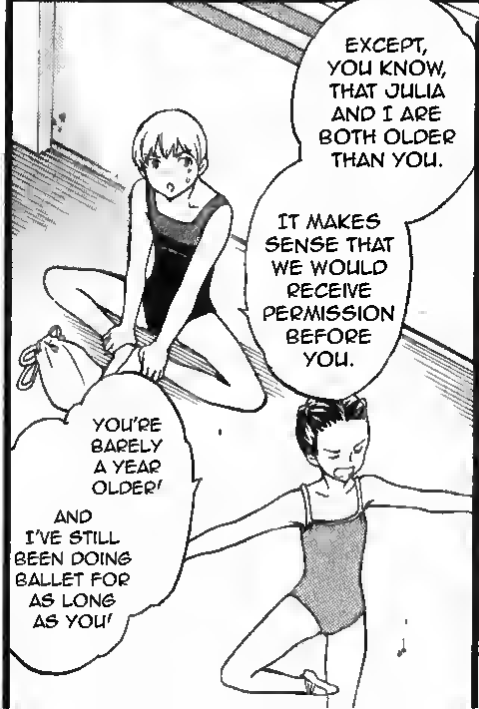
DID YOU CUT YOUR TOENAILS?
YEAH, I DID.
IT'S FINE, I'M EVEN WEARING BANDAGES TO MAKE SURE.
OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT HURT YOUR TOES.

HAVE YOU TRIED THEM ON, YET?
OOH, YOU REPLACED THE RIBON.
THE SHANK IS THE RIGID STRUCTURE THAT STIFFENS THE SOLE TO SUPPORT THE ARCH
HMM, I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU BENT THE SHANK A LITTLE BIT.
SEE, IT'S HARD!
WAIT, WHAT ARE—
SO THOSE ARE NEW POINTE SHOES—
ARE YOU NOT PUTTING IN ANY MORE CUSHION?
KANADE...
YOU'RE ANNOYING...
SAY, WHY DON'T YOU TRY THEM ON RIGHT NOW?
JUST GRAB THE BARRE AND GO EN POINTE!

A SIMULATED EXPERIENCE...
ARE YOU THAT ENVIOUS?

PFFT!
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THAT MUCH!
I CAN'T DO IT MYSELF YET,
SO IT WILL BE LIKE A SIMULATED EXPERIENCE FOR ME~

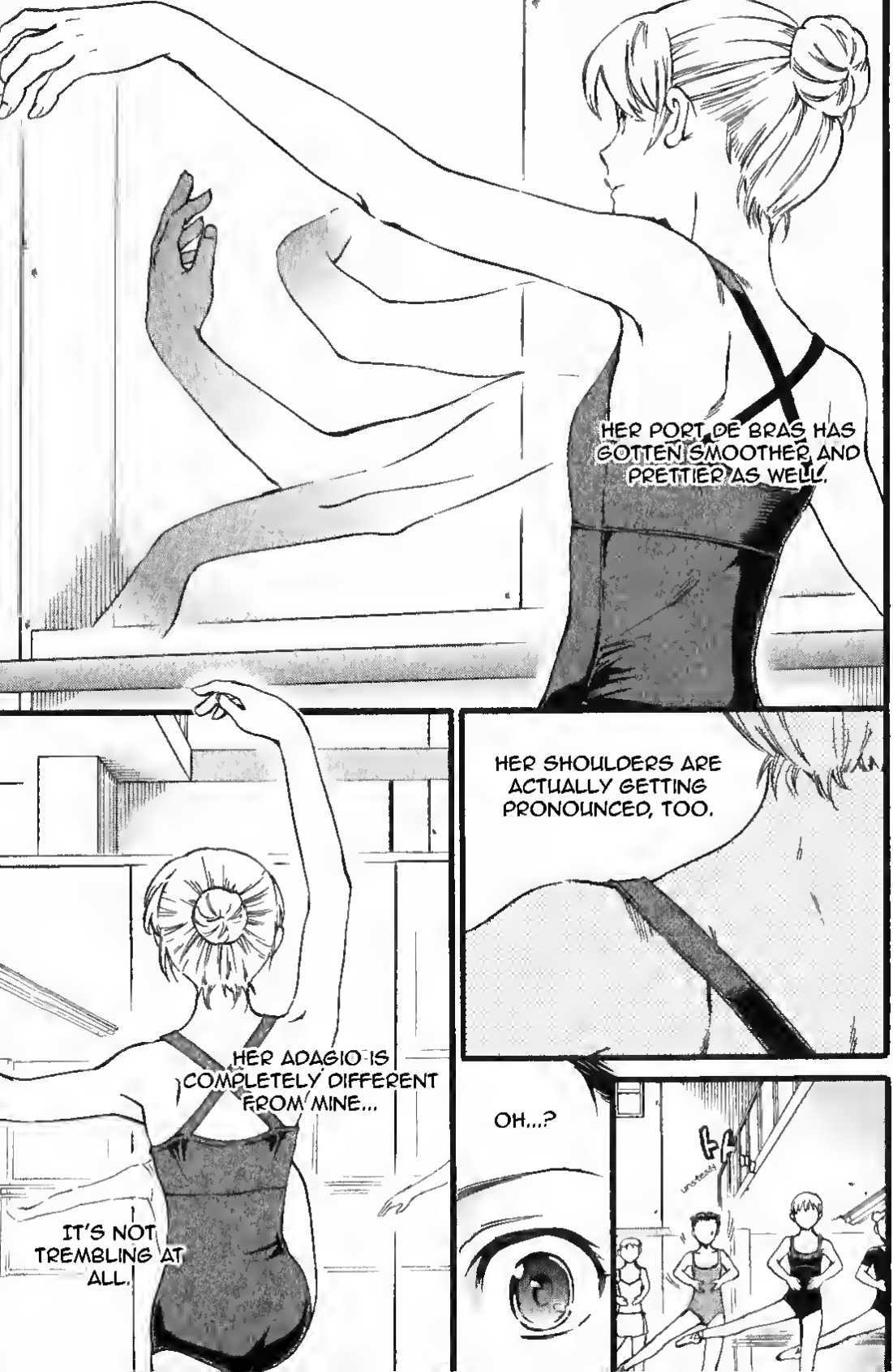
OF COURSE I AM!


EXCEPT, YOU KNOW, THAT JULIA AND I ARE BOTH OLDER THAN YOU.
IT MAKES SENSE THAT WE WOULD RECEIVE PERMISSION BEFORE YOU.
YOU'RE BARELY A YEAR OLDER!
AND I'VE STILL BEEN DOING BALLET FOR AS LONG AS YOU!

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE JUST THE TWO OF YOU~
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING!

YOU WANT TO BET...
KANADE,
JUST HOW MUCH BETTER THAN THE CURRENT ME YOU'LL BE IN A YEAR?
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING MEAN!
I'LL BE MUCH BETTER BY THAT TIME AS WELL...
YOU'LL CATCH UP IN DUE TIME, THOUGH.
EX-CEPT.

I WONDER WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRESS SO DIFFERENT.
WHAT IS IT THAT SHOUKO-CHAN HAS THAT I DON'T...?
SHE'S PUT A LOT MORE EFFORT INTO STRETCHING LATELY, THOUGH.
HER LEGS HAVE BEEN RISING HIGHER AND HIGHER.
I'M ACTUALLY MORE FLEXIBLE THAN HER.
SHE MIGHT PASS ME IF I DON'T PAY ATTENTION!

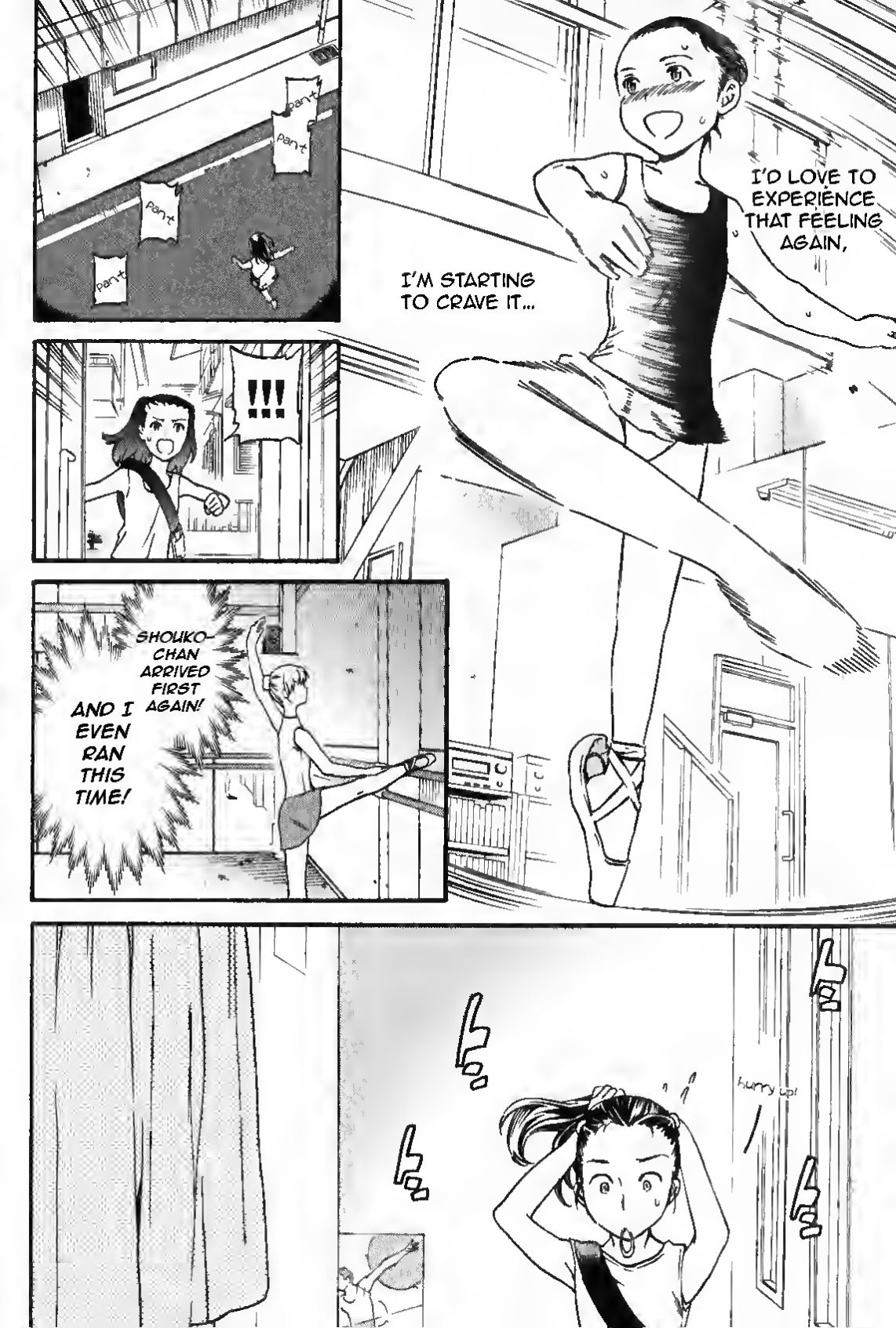

HER PORT DE BRAS HAS GOTTEN SMOOTHER AND PRETTIER AS WELL.
HER SHOULDERS ARE ACTUALLY GETTING PRONOUNCED, TOO.
HER ADAGIO IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM MINE...
IT'S NOT TREMBLING AT ALL.
OH...?
unsteady

HER BALANCE IS MUCH BETTER.
AH... SO THAT'S IT.
HER TRUNK LOOKS SOLID TOO...

FROM HEAD TO TOES,
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL HER LINES ARE CONNECTED WHEN SHE'S DANCING.
THAT'S WHY HER TURNS ARE SMOOTHER THAN MINE.

SHE MAKES IT LOOK SO EASY.
THREE OR FOUR ROTATIONS...
SO WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
HER LEGS?
AND SHE JUMPS HIGHER AS WELL...
IT CAN'T JUST BE HER TORSO, CAN IT?
HMM... SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE MORE MUSCLE MASS THAN I DO.
I GUESS SHE REALLY HAS ME BEAT IN TECHNIQUE TOO...
KA-KANA-DE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
pinch

I'M STILL ENVIOUS.
...POINTE SHOES...


pant
pant
pant
pant
I'D LOVE TO EXPERIENCE THAT FEELING AGAIN,
I'M STARTING TO CRAVE IT...
!!!
SHOUKO-CHAN ARRIVED FIRST AGAIN!
AND I EVEN RAN THIS TIME!
hurry up!

OH, KANADE-CHAN!
RISA-CHAN?!
!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YES I AM, BUT...
YOU'RE GOING TO PRACTICE NOW?
GOING TO DANCE ONCE AGAIN?!
AH! ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE...

STILL, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
IT'S FINE, I'M SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU.
HMM... I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, BUT NO.
I'M SORRY.
AWW, IT'S OKAY, I UNDERSTAND...
SO I'M IN CHARGE OF TAKING MEASUREMENTS FOR YOUR COSTUMES THIS TIME.
I GOT MYSELF A PART TIME JOB AS A COSTUME DESIGNER SOMEWHERE,
THAT'S EXCITING!
OOH! YOU EVEN GET YOUR OWN SOLO!
CUPID.
I'LL BE A CUPID WHO CAN'T GO EN POINTE THOUGH...
YOU'RE PLAYING IN DON QUIXOTE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?
DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOUR MEASUREMENTS, TOO?
OOOH!

TAKIMOTO-SENSEI STILL HASN'T GIVEN YOU PERMISSION?
Changing Room B
YOU MIGHT SOON BE BETTER THAN I USED TO BE—
I ALMOST DIDN'T RECO-GNIZE YOU.
NO WAY!
I-I'M NOT EVEN WEARING POINTE SHOES YET
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
HOW COULD I BE?!
I SEE. WELL, IN ANY CASE...
I DID SEE YOU PRACTICING THE OTHER DAY.
YOU'VE IMPROVED A LOT.
EH?
When did that happen?
BESIDES, THE LONGER YOU'LL GO WITHOUT POINTE SHOES, THE HAPPIER YOU'LL BE WHEN YOU GET THEM.
YOUR ARMS AND LEGS, AND YOUR WHOLE BODY ARE STILL GROWING,
BUT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE IT HAPPENS.

A SINGLE INJURY AND IT'S OVER~

UGH...

IT'S MUCH MORE MENACING COMING FROM RISA-CHAN!

BUT—

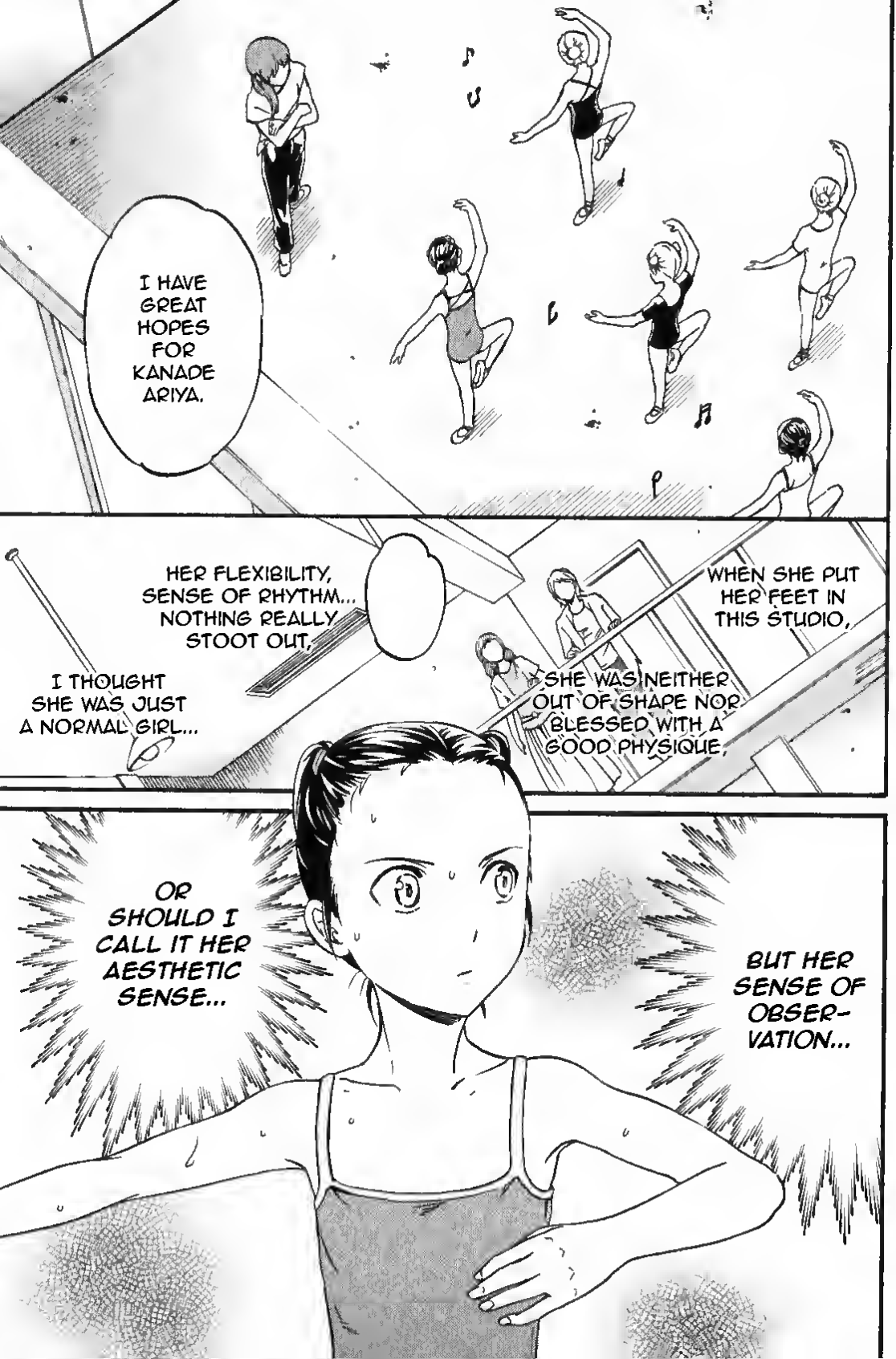
JUST TAKE IT SLOWLY,

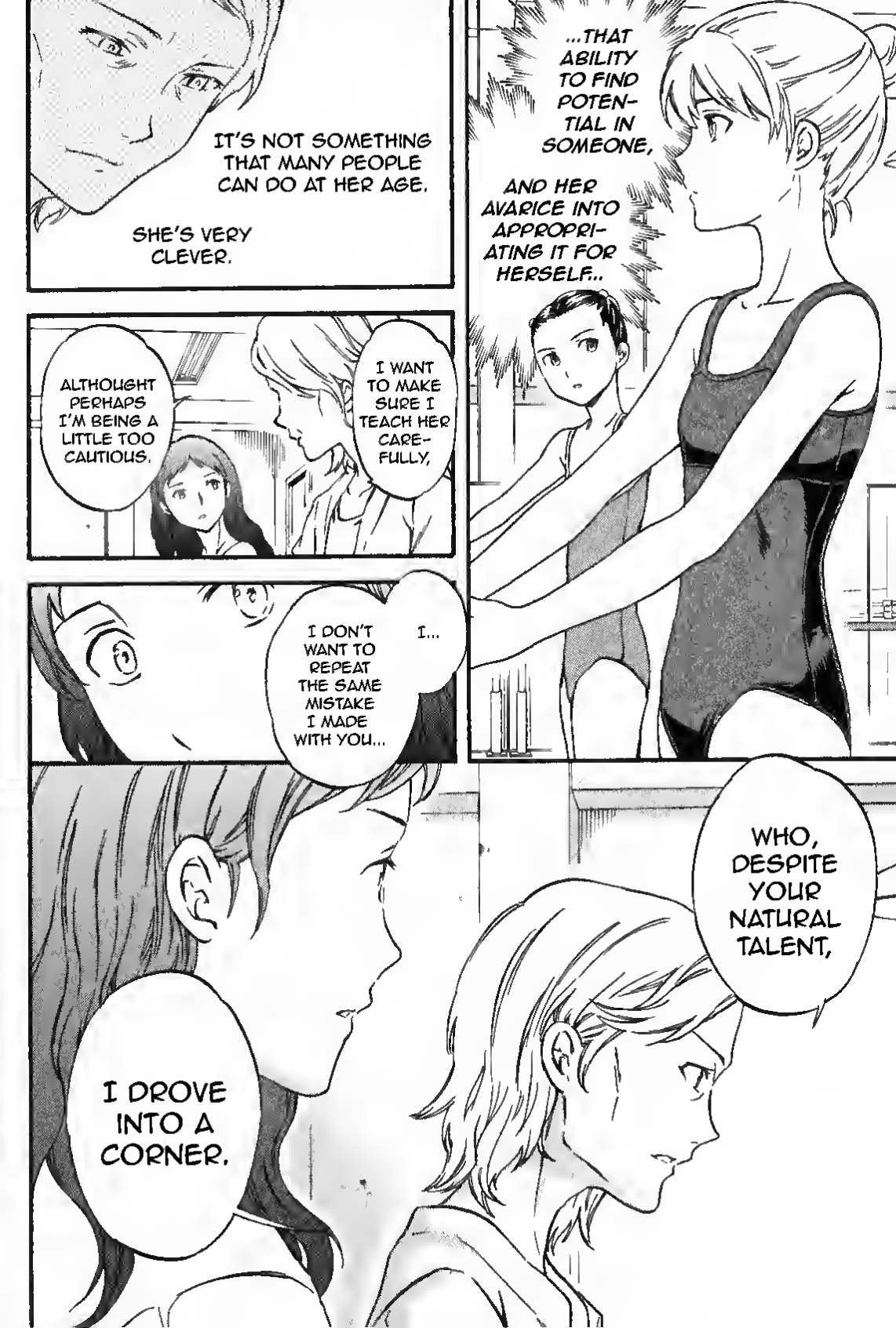
OTHER-WISE...

LONG TIME NO SEE.

...RISA...!

TAKI-MOTO-SENSEI!


I HAVE GREAT HOPES FOR KANADE ARIYA.
HER FLEXIBILITY, SENSE OF RHYTHM... NOTHING REALLY STOOT OUT.
WHEN SHE PUT HER FEET IN THIS STUDIO,
I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST A NORMAL GIRL...
SHE WAS NEITHER OUT OF SHAPE NOR BLESSED WITH A GOOD PHYSIQUE.
OR SHOULD I CALL IT HER AESTHETIC SENSE...
BUT HER SENSE OF OBSER-VATION...


IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT MANY PEOPLE CAN DO AT HER AGE.
SHE'S VERY CLEVER.
...THAT ABILITY TO FIND POTENTIAL IN SOMEONE,
AND HER AVARICE INTO APPROPRIATING IT FOR HERSELF...
ALTHOUGHT PERHAPS I'M BEING A LITTLE TOO CAUTIOUS.
I WANT TO MAKE SURE I TEACH HER CAREFULLY,
I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE I MADE WITH YOU...
I...
WHO, DESPITE YOUR NATURAL TALENT,
I DROVE INTO A CORNER.